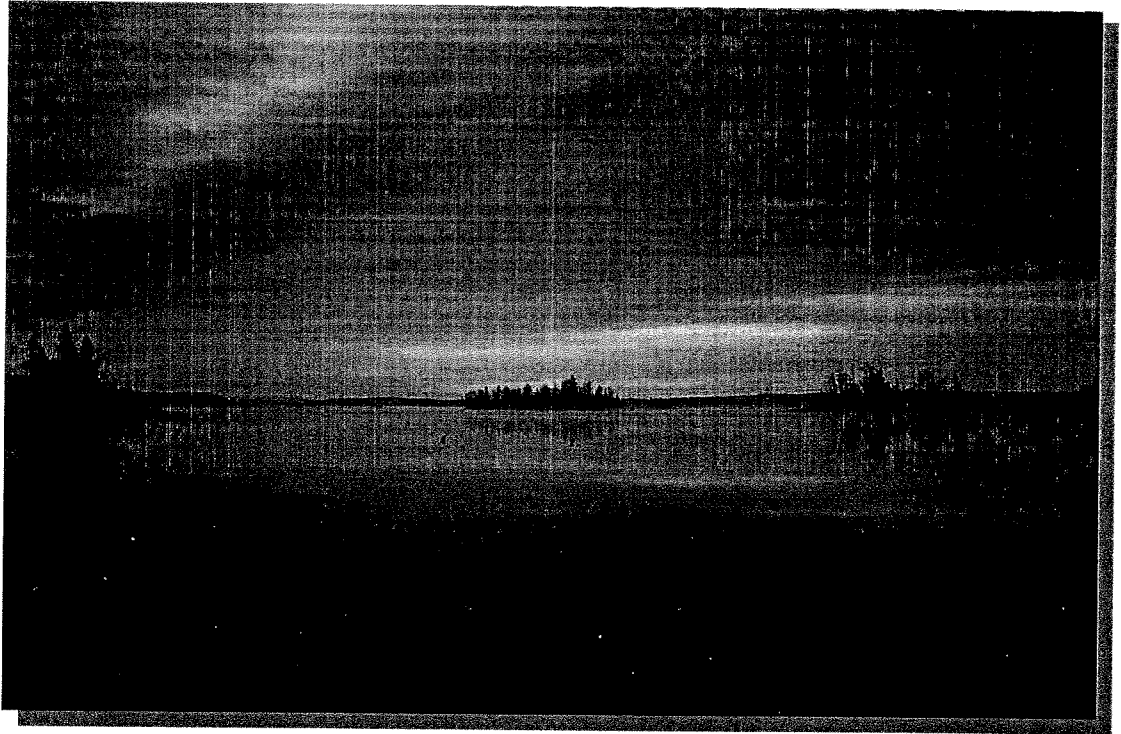


GILE FLOWAGE WATERSHED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN-PHASE I



Gile Flowage Sunrise

**WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LAKE PLANNING GRANT
LPL-900-04**

**SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE
TOWN OF CAREY AND THE TOWN OF PENCE
IRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

DECEMBER, 2004

GILE FLOWAGE WATERSHED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN-PHASE I

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as per Lake Planning Grant Agreement

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Phase I Preliminary Plan

A Steering Committee Of Stakeholders

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Lake Planning Grant

LPL-900-04

In partnership with the
Towns of Carey and Pence
Iron County, Wisconsin

Gile Flowage Watershed Comprehensive Plan-Phase I

GILE FLOWAGE WATERSHED LAND OWNER SURVEY

Conducted by the Iron County UW-Extension Office

GILE FLOWAGE SURVEY

This survey is being conducted for the Gile Flowage watershed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension to help gather information on how its residents and property owners feel about the future of the flowage. Information will be incorporated into the comprehensive land use plans being developed by the Towns of Carey and Pence. The survey results may also be used by the "Friends of the Gile" (FOG) Lake Association to address issues related to programs and grants to improve the Gile Flowage.



The cost of this survey is being borne by a Lake Management Grant obtained through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The Gile Flowage watershed includes all land where the water flows into the Gile Flowage and incorporates a much larger area than just the lands immediately surrounding the flowage. Please take the time to complete and return this survey so that the voices of all of the residents and property owners living within the watershed can be heard.

THE GILE FLOWAGE AND ITS WATERSHED

The Gile Flowage watershed includes most of the land within the Towns of Pence and Carey. Xcel Energy actually owns the land beneath the flowage, unlike lakes where the land beneath the water is publicly owned. Xcel Energy also owns several parcels on the flowage **as well as the additional shoreland surrounding the flowage, usually up to the 1,495 foot or 1,500 foot contour line.**

1. What do you value most about the Gile Flowage watershed (Please rank your choices using #1 as the most important to you, etc.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ___ Recreational Use of the Flowage. | ___ Fishing |
| ___ Scenic Beauty of the Lake and Shoreline. | ___ Winter Recreation |
| ___ Natural Environment of the Watershed. | ___ Undeveloped northwoods character, solitude |
| ___ Property Values as an Investment | ___ Other (please list _____) |

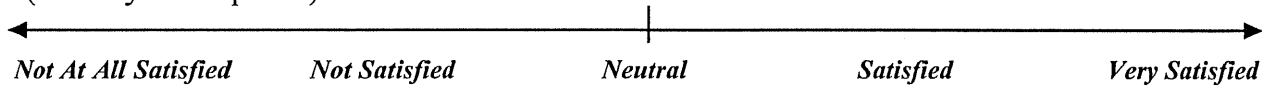
2. Which of the following activities have you participated in over the past 12 months in the Gile Flowage watershed (circle all those you participated in).

- a. Motorized Boating
- b. Non-Motorized Boating
- c. Fishing
- d. Ice Fishing
- e. Swimming
- f. Scenic Enjoyment and Wildlife Viewing



- g. Ice Skating, Hiking or Skiing
- h. Snowmobile
- i. ATV or motorized trail bike use
- j. Walking or hiking
- k. Bicycling
- l. Other (please list): _____

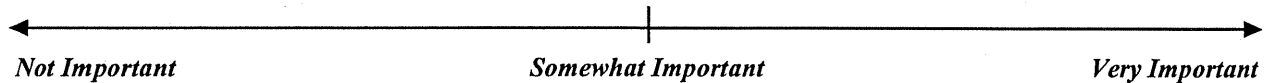
3. In general, how satisfied are you with the Gile Flowage and its watershed at this time?
(Circle your response)



Why _____

ON-THE-WATER RECREATIONAL USAGE

4. How important to you is the issue of on-the-water recreational use on the flowage?

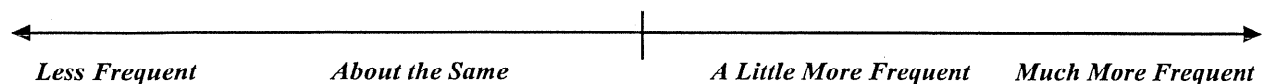


5. How do you use the flowage for on-the-water recreational use (please check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>___ Motor Boating for pleasure</p> <p>___ Shore Fishing</p> <p>___ Fishing from a boat</p> <p>___ Ice Fishing</p> <p>___ Swimming</p> | <p>___ Jet Skiing</p> <p>___ Sailing or windsurfing</p> <p>___ Canoeing, kayaking, rowing</p> <p>___ Pontoon boating</p> <p>___ Just enjoy viewing from the shore</p> |
|--|---|

___ Other: _____

6. Looking back over the last several years do you believe that the recreational usage of the flowage by other people has become:



7. How would you best describe how the current amount and type of on-the water recreational usage of the flowage by others affects you? *(please check one)*

- ☐ It greatly diminishes my use and enjoyment of the flowage.
☐ It diminishes my use and enjoyment of the flowage to a limited degree.
☐ It doesn't diminish my use and enjoyment of the flowage.

8. Would you support an ordinance that would:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Limit the Size of Motors Allowed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prohibit the Use of Jet skis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limit Jet Skis to Select Areas or Times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limit Water Skiing to Select Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limit Permitted Times for Motorized Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prohibit "Wakes" in Selected Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide for Non-Motorized Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

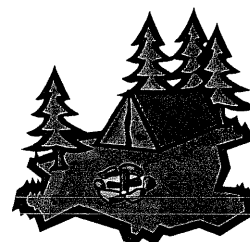
Please share with us any comments you might have regarding this issue: _____

9. Do you believe that camping on the public islands should be permitted?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

10. Should camping sites be developed on the public islands?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure



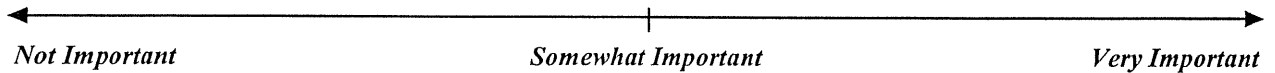
11. Do you have any other comments related to on-the-water recreational use of the flowage?



The amount of water in the Gile Flowage that can be "drawn down" by Xcel Energy for their power generation needs is regulated by the State of Wisconsin. The "full-pond" or "normal high water mark" is set at 1,490 feet. Normally, the water is lowered six feet in the summer and seven feet in the winter.

WATER QUALITY

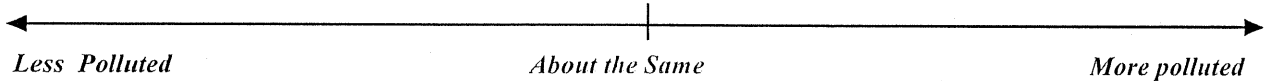
12. How important to you is the quality of water in the Gile Flowage?



13. How does the present quality of water in the flowage affect you? (circle one)

- a. It greatly diminishes my use and enjoyment of the flowage.
- b. It diminishes my use and enjoyment of the flowage to a limited degree.
- c. It doesn't diminish my use and enjoyment of the flowage.

14. Looking back over the last several years do you believe that the flowage has become:

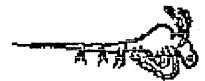


15. Do you have any other comments related to the quality of water in the flowage?

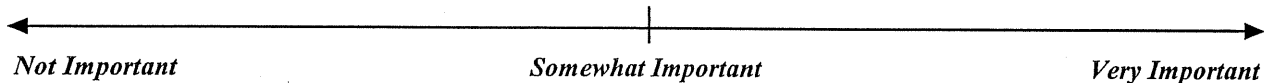
EXOTIC SPECIES



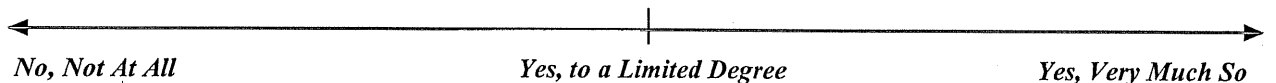
In 2003, an exotic species called a "spiny water flea" was found in the Gile Flowage. The impact of this species on the Flowage is not yet known. Other exotic species reported in or near the Flowage include the Chinese Apple Snail, Purple Loosestrife plant and Spiny Water Fleas.



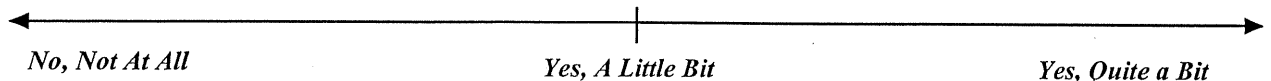
16. How important to you is the issue of exotic species in the Gile Flowage?



17. Does the existence of exotic species in the flowage negatively affect you or your enjoyment of the Flowage?



18. Have you noticed the presence of exotic species (such as the Chinese Apple Snail, Purple Loosestrife and Spiny Water Fleas) in the Gile Flowage over the past several years?

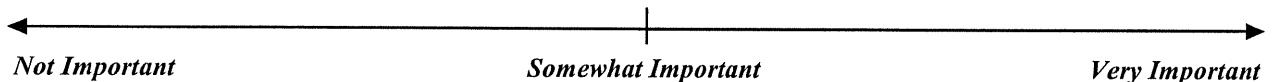


If yes, where did you see them? _____

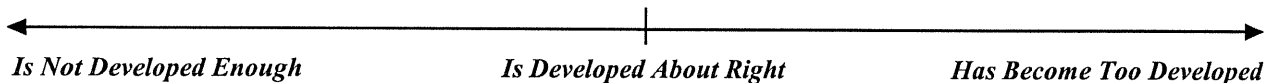
19. Would you support an effort to improve the education and awareness of the impacts of exotic species to protect the Gile Flowage?
- ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure
20. Would you support enhanced enforcement to reduce the introduction of exotic species into the flowage?
- ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure
21. Would you support efforts to improve fishing in the Gile Flowage through the construction of fish cribs, baiting fish or stoking fish?
- ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure
22. Do you have any other comments related to the issue of exotic species in the Gile Flowage?

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

23. How important to you are land use and development issues within the Gile Flowage watershed?



24. Which of the following statements do you believe most accurately describes the Gile Flowage watershed:?



25. Do you support long range planning efforts to manage growth and preserve the quality of life within the Gile Flowage watershed?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure

26. If there were to be further development in the Gile Flowage watershed I would support the location of the following land uses: *(please place an 'x' on those you favor)*

<p>___ Single Family Houses</p> <p>___ Multi-family Housing (condos, apartments, duplexes)</p> <p>___ Resorts</p> <p>___ Bars and Restaurants</p>	<p>___ Marinas</p> <p>___ Campgrounds</p> <p>___ Other Commercial Uses Related to Water Usage (such as boat sales and rentals)</p> <p>___ Other (please list): _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
---	--

“Keyholing” is a type of development where a number of homes are built away from the water but are allowed access to the water through a strip of property that reaches the high water mark.

Currently, the County Zoning Ordinance allows up to four lots to have access through a key-hole lot, provided that these lots meet the minimum lot size requirements.

27. Do you support an ordinance that would **prohibit** key-holing on shoreline property within the Gile Flowage watershed?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure

28. Do you support ordinances that **regulate** (put limitations and conditions upon) keyholing on shoreline property within the Gile Flowage watershed?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure

29. Under Iron County’s Lake Classification System, the Gile Flowage is a Class I lake. The following series of questions related to how you feel about the current dimensional requirements for single family dwellings located on Class I lakes:

a. Minimum Lot Size is 40,000 Square Feet (approximately one acre), Do you Believe This Is:

← *Too Large* *Too Small* *About Right* →

b. Minimum Lot Width is 200 Feet, Do you Believe This Is:

← *Too Wide* *Too Narrow* *About Right* →

c. Shoreline setbacks for Buildings are 75 Feet, Do you Believe This is:

← *Too Far Back* *Too Close* *About Right* →

30. How important is it to you that the northwoods character of the Gile Flowage is maintained?

← *Not Important* *Somewhat Important* *Very Important* *Unsure* →

31. To help preserve the Flowage’s northwoods character, Pence has an ordinance requiring high intensity shoreland lights (ie mercury/halogen yard or street lights) be shielded to prevent light from trespassing on other property or from glaring out over the water. Should this ordinance be extended to the entire Flowage?

___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure

32. What do you favor being done with the public shoreline property that is owned by either Iron County as County Forest Land or the Towns of Carey or Pence? *(please check those you favor)*

☐ Retain county and town lands in public ownership ☐ Sell Town Land
☐ Sell County Forest Land ☐ Not Sure

33. How would you describe the transportation network within the watershed?

☐ Adequate as is
☐ Maintenance of Roads Needs to be Improved
☐ More new roads needed, if so where: _____

Do you have any other comments related to land use and development within the Gile Flowage watershed? _____

PUBLIC ACCESS

34. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following items related to public access to the Gile Flowage:

	<u>Acceptable</u>	<u>Not Acceptable</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Quality of Public Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of Public Access Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restroom Facilities at Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signage at Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Garbage Pick-Up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please list): _____			

35. Which of the following improvements to the Gile Park and boat landing would you support?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Replace Boat Dock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve Boat Launch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide a Low Water Launch Facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve Restroom Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide Picnic Tables and Benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please list): _____			

36. At Gile Park, would you support an effort to move the beach back to its original location closer to the dam?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

37. What improvements would you support at the other less developed public access sites?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Improve Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide Toilet Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please list): _____			

38. Do you believe that snowmobiles and ATV's should be permitted to access the Gile Flowage during the winter months?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Unsure

39. Do you have any other comments related to public access to the Gile Flowage? _____

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

40. Looking to the future, which of the following statements best describes your vision for the Gile Flowage watershed? *(please check the one you most favor)*

- _____ A watershed with a high priority placed on protecting the natural beauty of the flowage.
_____ A watershed that balances the protection of the natural resources with the recreational use and development of the flowage.
_____ A watershed that encourages greater recreational uses of the flowage and more development of its shoreline.

41. What are the greatest threats that you believe are facing the future of the Gile Flowage and its watershed? _____

42. Which of the following management and educational activities would you support (please check all that apply)?

- _____ Information at the Public Access Sites Regarding Exotic Species
_____ Education Regarding Steps that Individual Property Owners Can Take to Reduce Water Pollution
_____ Regulations Limiting the Use of Lawn and garden Pesticides
_____ Increased Zoning and Related Regulations to Limit the **Amount** of Development in the Watershed
_____ Zoning Changes that would Increase the **Regulation** of Land Uses in the Watershed (such as increasing setbacks and shoreline buffer zones)
_____ More Regulations Limiting the Use of Motorized Boats in the Flowage
_____ Mandatory Septic Tank Inspections
_____ Education Encouraging Voluntary Septic Tank Inspections
_____ Chemically Treat Weeds and Algae on a Regular Basis

43. How would you support the Towns of Carey and Pence preserving the unique characteristics of the Gile Flowage and its watershed? *(please check all that you favor)*

- ☐ Develop a zoning overlay district for the Flowage that would add regulations in addition to current County zoning
- ☐ Rely on current County zoning
- ☐ Develop Town ordinances
- ☐ Rely on voluntary compliance to Town's recommendations
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Not Sure

44. What is the best way to communicate with you regarding proposed planning, management or educational projects related to the Gile Flowage watershed? *(please check all that you favor)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Mail (letters, flyers, brochures) | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Presentations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): _____ |

45. How would you ideally picture the Gile Flowage watershed in the next 10 years. Please give us your vision for the future of the flowage:

YOURSELF

46. Do you rent or own your property in the Gile Flowage watershed?

☐ Rent ☐ Own

47. What municipality is your property located in?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Carey | <input type="checkbox"/> City of Montreal (including Gile) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Pence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): _____ |



48. How long have you lived or owned property within the Gile Flowage watershed?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0-2 Years | <input type="checkbox"/> 11-20 Years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 Years | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 Years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-11 Years | |

49. Which of the following best describes your property in the Gile Flowage watershed?

- ☐ Property Directly Abutting the Xcel Owned Waterfront Property
- ☐ Property Not Directly Abutting the Xcel Owned Waterfront Property
- ☐ Own both types of property

50. Approximately how much of your property abuts the Xcel owned waterfront property of the Gile Flowage?

_____ feet of frontage or _____ acres

51. How would you describe your property?

☐ Full time residence

☐ Seasonal residence

If seasonal: do you plan on using your seasonal residence as a year-round home someday?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

☐ Undeveloped:

If undeveloped what are your building plans for your property in the next 5 years:

☐ Build a permanent home

☐ Keep undeveloped

☐ Build a seasonal cabin or home

☐ Not sure

52. Do you plan to subdivide your Gile Flowage property within the next 5 years?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

53. Do you plan to sell your property within the next 5 years?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

54. Would you be interested in being involved with this effort to manage the Gile Flowage Watershed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please write your name, mailing address and/or e-mail address so we can be sure to include you in our future mailings:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please feel free to add any additional comments that you would like regarding the Gile Flowage and its watershed: _____

Thank you very much for your assistance in completing this survey!

Please return the survey in the enclosed, stamped envelope by _____, 2004. Or, if you picked up a copy of this survey at one of our sites, you can simply return the survey to the same site.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the Iron County UW-Extension office located in the Iron County Court House or call 715-561-2695.